

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Alaska sites added to Corps/Federal Caucus public meetings

Walla Walla, Wash. -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Caucus have added two more meetings in Alaska, following a request from governor Tony Knowles.

The Alaska meetings will now include sessions in Sitka, Juneau, Ketchikan and Petersburg. Public meetings for the draft Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration Feasibility Report/ Environmental Impact Statement, and the Federal Caucus All-H Paper are being held throughout the region in February and March.

Together with the Corps' presentation of the Draft FR/EIS for improving salmon migration on the lower Snake River, the Federal Caucus will be presenting the "Conservation of Columbia Basin Fish All-H Paper." A Corps report on drawdown at John Day Dam will also be on the meeting agenda.

The meetings in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, include an open house. In the larger cities, both afternoon and evening presentations and comment sessions are being held. At all sessions the public will have an opportunity to make written and oral comments on the Corps' Draft FR/EIS and the Federal Caucus "All-H Paper." Written comments are also being solicited on the John Day Drawdown Study.

Oral public comments are limited to three minutes in length and individuals must sign up in advance at the meetings. Anyone may also submit written comments.

The Corps' draft feasibility report/environmental impact statement was released in December 1999. It focuses on ways to modify the four lower Snake River dams to improve migration conditions for salmon stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Federal Caucus Conservation of Columbia Basin Fish All-H Paper examines opportunities for recovering listed salmon, steelhead and resident fish in four areas: habitat, hatcheries, harvest and hydropower.

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Alaska sites added/2-2-2

Members of the Federal Caucus include the Corps, Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Environmental Protection Agency, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

For more information on the Corps' Lower Snake River Draft FR/EIS visit www.nww.usace.army.mil. More information on the Federal Caucus is available at: www.bpa.gov/federalcaucus.

Upcoming Public Meetings:

Washington

• Seattle, Feb. 29, Seattle Center, 200 Thomas Street, 12 noon and 6 p.m. Sign-ups for public comment begin at 10:30 a.m. for the afternoon session and 3:30 p.m. for the evening session.

Idaho

- Boise, Idaho, Feb. 23, Centre on the Grove, 850 West Front Street, 12 noon.
- Idaho Falls, March 7, Shilo Inn, 780 Lindsay Boulevard, 5 p.m.
- Twin Falls, March 8, Weston Plaza, 1350 Blue Lakes Blvd. N., 5 p.m.

Montana

- Kalispell, March 1, Outlaw Inn, 1701 Highway 93 South, 6 p.m.
- Missoula, March 2, DoubleTree Hotel, 100 Madison, 6 p.m.

Alaska

- Sitka, March 7, Westmark Hotel, 330 Seward Street, 5:30 p.m.
- Juneau, March 8, Centennial Hall Convention Center, 101 Egan Drive, 5:30 p.m.
- Ketchikan, March 6, Ted Ferry Civic Center, 888 Venetia Avenue, 5:30 p.m.
- Petersburg, March 9, City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 12 South Nordic Drive, 5:30 p.m.